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Urban District of
PORTSLADE - BY - SEA

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1958

by

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

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PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE.

Councillor S. G. BAKER, J.P.

(Chairman of the Council).

Councillor Mrs. E. F. CAVE, J.P.

(Chairman of Committee).

Councillor S. G. BAKER, J.P.

Councillor M. D. BAUMANN.

Councillor F. E. W. CANNONS.

Councillor F. R. MARTIN.

Councillor H. F. PARKER, J.P.

Councillor G. H. PARKS, M.B.E.

Councillor R. B. POWELL.

Councillor R. R. J. SHIMMANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My report for 1958 follows the general lines of its immediate predecessors and in the foreword I draw attention to some events and matters of local importance and interest which occurred during the year.

Vital Statistics.

The Population again advanced and increased by some 410. The Births exceeded the Deaths by some 30—a narrower margin than last year. There were 6 deaths of infants under twelve months, none of whom survived more than three months and except for one, who accidentally suffocated whilst in his pram, all from causes which could not have been prevented and all were delivered in hospital. The Infant Mortality Rate—27.90 per 1000 live births, was slightly higher than in 1957. The causes of the Adult Deaths were the usual—and included 9 cases of Cancer of the Lungs—all males—2 of Leukaemia—both females. There was 1 fatality from a motor accident, 5 from other accidents and no suicides.

Infectious Disease.

Which the exception of Measles which produced 200 notified cases, the incidence of the other infectious diseases was slight. There were 9 cases of Food Poisoning involving 6 separate families and as they had all purchased and consumed the same article of food—faggots—at the same shop it seems reasonable to assume that this was the vehicle of infection. However, further extensive investigation including the method of preparation and cooking, handicapped, however, by the absence of any of the suspected article of food made it unlikely that this was the cause.

The 3 cases of Poliomyelitis during the month of September were all in children and two were brothers. No connection was discovered between the two families who lived in different parts of the town and the dates of onset were separated by an

interval of nearly 3 weeks. All were non-paralytic and 2 had received injections of Poliomyelitis Vaccine previously, one 12 months earlier and one 14 days before the onset. There are quite a number of explanations for the disease occurring within a month of vaccination besides that of cause and effect and it therefore cannot be proved that the injection precipitated the actual attack. In any case all suffered from the mild non-paralytic variety and the vaccine which 2 of them had received may well have protected them against the more serious variety.

Tuberculosis.

27 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were added to and 18 removed through death or other causes from the Register. There remained notified by the end of the year 140 cases of both types—11 more than in 1957. Of the 27 new cases referred to above only 10 contracted the infection whilst living in Portslade—the remainder being transfers from other areas. Once again the figures confirm the view that the reservoir of infectious cases remains with those over 35 years.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

The Table on page 14 sets out the position at the end of December 1958, and under the heading "Children born in the years 1943-1958" it will be seen that approximately 1500 had completed the course of 2 injections by that date. This represents slightly under 50% of those eligible. In September the Ministry of Health extended the age limits up to 25 and introduced a third injection into the course not earlier than 7 months after the second. This raising of the age limit involved consideration of the methods of approach and the provision of evening sessions for those who had left school and were working. It was decided that until experience was gained in Hove no special facilities would be made available in Portslade, although as from February 1959 an evening session once a week at Sellaby House has been opened. This explains the small total of 30 teenagers and young adults who completed the course by December 1958, although in both Hove and Portslade it needed the propaganda value of the death of a well known professional footballer to bring home the lesson of prevention and protection.

Slum Clearance.

During the year 5 more areas have been dealt with involving the eventual demolition of 34 houses—4 of the sites were also compulsorily purchased for controlled development. This

virtually except for individual unfit houses represents the conclusion of the 5 year Slum Clearance programme approved in 1954. At that time the total demolitions was anticipated to be 109—actually the number in the 18 clearance areas—10 with compulsory purchase—is 121, + 6 individual unfit houses dealt with by closure or demolition.

Smoke Abatement.

Early in 1958 the Joint Committee for Atmospheric Pollution approved the installation of gauges for measurement of deposits and of S.O.₂ on the roof of Fryco Works in Victoria Road and analyses were available as from May. These showed considerable fluctuations; the figures were particularly high in July and August falling to normal limits in September, October and November. It is difficult to account for these occasional high figures occurring in the two summer months when domestic consumption would be at its lowest and they seem to be independent of wind direction and rainfall. Microscopic examination of the insoluble deposit did show the presence of fused particles resulting from high temperature combustion but the emphasis of complaints in all three of the constituent districts has shifted to the inconvenience and damage resulting from airborne crude coal and coke dust—measures for the alleviation of which are still under discussion.

Old People.

There were no applications for compulsory removal to a County Welfare Home or Hospital made under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

General.

My thanks are once again this year due to the Clerk to the Council and the Surveyor for ready assistance and advice whenever it has been required and particularly I am grateful to Mr. Donald, the Public Health Inspector, who relieves me of all worries in connection with the routine duties of his office. I should also like to record my appreciation of the support which I have always received from members of the Public Health Committee.

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS 1958

Population : 14,970.

DEATHS :	Total	M	F
	182	98	84

Death Rate : 12.15 (Standard).
13.35 (Corrected).

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	Nil
Pneumonia	..	..	11
Cancer (all forms)	..	..	40
Live Births	..	..	215
Live Birth rate per 1000 population	..	14.36 (Standard)	111
		15.07 (Corrected)	
Still Births	..	..	4
Still Births rate per 1000 live and still births	..	..	18.26
Total Live and Still Births	..	..	219
Infant Deaths	..	..	6
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births	..	..	27.90
Infant Mortality rate per 1000 live births :			
Legitimate	..	..	24.03
Illegitimate	..	..	142.86
Neo-Natal Mortality rate per 1000 live births	..	..	18.60
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	..	..	3.25%
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	..	..	—
Maternal Mortality rate per 1000 live and still births			—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :

There are 19 houses served by cesspools, of these cesspools 4 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 3 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act.

In addition there are 5 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR. The Public Health Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :

Houses inspected for housing defects ..	388
Number of inspections made for the purpose.	776
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts ..	337
Number of inspections made for that purpose	674
Number of complaints received.	198
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act) ..	60
Statutory Notices served	4
Houses found dirty or verminous ..	14
Houses with insufficient refuse bin ..	6

Defective and Choked Drains	..	..	108
Defective Closets	..	..	42
Defective Sinks	..	..	14
Defective Roofs and Gutters	..	..	180
Damp Walls and Ceilings	..	..	205
Defective Walls and Ceilings	..	..	270
Defective Floors	..	..	150
Defects to Windows, Doors, etc.	..	..	224
Defects to Grates	..	..	35
Defects to Chimneys	..	..	45
Defective Paving	..	..	39

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The destruction of rats and mice has been successfully continued throughout the year, both in surface properties and in the Council's sewers.

During the year 116 infestations were dealt with on surface properties and two sewer treatments carried out.

The treatment is free to private properties but a small charge is made for business premises.

Eradication of Vermin.

During the year 14 houses were found to be in a dirty or verminous condition and of these, 9 were disinfested by spraying with insecticides.

This work has been carried out by the Council and the cost of materials has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED

AT 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

Council Houses and Flats	..	..	743
Old Peoples Bungalows	..	..	30

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	388
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	776
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	33
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	58
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	107

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	82
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INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There is only 1 Farm in the District which is supplying Tuberculin Tested Milk.

During the year there were 39 Dealers' Licences and 9 Supplementary Licences issued for the sale of designated Milk in this District.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955. SECTION 16.

There are 64 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream and 6 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, pickled or preserved food.

There were 12 inspections of registered premises throughout the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

During the year 22 inspections of food premises were made and in 9 of them infringements of the Regulations were found.

Notices were served in respect of the following items :—

Provision of First Aid Materials	..	..	3
Provision of Hot Water Supply	..	..	4
Provision of Wash Hand Basin	..	..	1
Display of Notices requiring persons to wash their hands after using sanitary convenience	..	..	6
Provision of towels, soap, etc.	..	..	3
Insufficient ventilation	..	..	1
Walls, ceilings, etc., requiring repair or decoration			3

There were 5 premises in which a constant supply of hot water was provided and in one shop a new wash hand basin was installed.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and most of the home killed meat is brought in from Brighton Abattoir.

No butchers meat was condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :—

- 1 Tin of Garden Peas.
- 2 Dozen Escallops.
- 4 Tins Cooked Ham.
- 2 Stone of Fish Fillets.
- 98 Cases of Bottled Beer.
- 12 Barrels of Draught Beer.
- 939 Bottles of Mineral Water.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes o provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	33	8	1	<i>Nil</i>
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	46	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Nil</i>
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	5	3	1	<i>Nil</i>
TOTAL ..	89	57	2	<i>Nil</i>

SLUM CLEARANCE.

PREMISES DEALT WITH DURING YEAR 1958.

Nos. 1 to 9 Clarendon Place	}	12 houses.
Nos. 2 to 10 Clarendon Place		
Nos. 11 and 15A North Street		

Compulsory Purchase Order Confirmed.

Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7 Clarence Street.

Compulsory Purchase Order Confirmed.

Nos. 3 to 15 Ellen Street	}	15 houses.
Nos. 2 to 16 Ellen Street		

Compulsory Purchase Order Confirmed.

Nos. 3, 5, 7, 9 Buckler Street.

Clearance Order Confirmed.

No. 361 Mile Oak Road.

Demolition Order.

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS — 1958.

	* New Cases				Deaths				Other Removals				Cases on Register				Totals
	Pul. M. F.	Non. Pul. M. F.	Pul. M. F.	Non. Pul. M. F.	Pul. M. F.	Non. Pul. M. F.	Pul. M. F.	Non. Pul. M. F.	Pul. M. F.	Non. Pul. M. F.	Pul. M. F.	Non. Pul. M. F.	Pul. M. F.	Non. Pul. M. F.	Pul. M. F.	Non. Pul. M. F.	
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
15—20	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	5
20—25	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	2	7	2	21
25—35	3	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	11	2	11	1	25
35—45	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	18	3	11	—	32
45—65	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	28	—	10	3	41
Over 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	4	—	11
Totals	15	12	—	1	3	—	—	—	6	7	—	1	78	9	46	7	140

* These figures include "Inward Transfers"

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.		TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED
Scarlet Fever		16
Whooping Cough		8
Poliomyelitis		3
Measles		200
Pneumonia		16
Erysipelas		1
Food Poisoning		8
Puerperal Pyrexia		1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. 1958.

	AGE at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B).			
	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	Total
A. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents (during the year) ..	113	57	29	199
B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (<i>i.e.</i> , subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the year ..	—	1	14	15
C. Total number of children who have received the combined diphtheria and whooping cough course of injections during the year	90	42	29	161
D. Number of children who received the triple vaccine (Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis) during the year ..	89	40	29	158

There were no cases of Diphtheria during the year.

VACCINATION ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during Period.						
AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 and over	Total
Number Vaccinated	162	4	—	8	—	174
Number Re-Vaccinated ..	—	—	3	3	30	36

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

1958

Class	Number vaccinated with two injections during the year	Number of applicants awaiting vaccination at 31st Dec., 1958
CHILDREN born in the years 1943 to 1958 ..	1493	12
YOUNG PERSONS born in the years 1933 to 1942 ..	30	—
Expectant Mothers ..	40	—
General practitioners and their families ..	—	—
Ambulance staff and their families ..	—	—
Hospital staff, medical students and their families	8	—
TOTAL ..	1571	12

Number of persons who had received one injection only at 31st December, 1958.

(1) Children ..	..	64
(2) Young Persons ..	..	3
(3) Expectant Mothers ..	..	—
(4) Others ..	..	—
		—
Total ..	..	67
		—

Total number of persons who had received three injections at 31st December, 1958.

311